

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 8 and leaves claims 4 and 6 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-8.

In the Office Action the Examiner objected to the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 6, 2002 as allegedly failing to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97, 1.98 and MPEP §609. Particularly, the Examiner alleges that the listing of the references was not in the proper format. Attached herewith is a Form PTO-1449 providing a listing of the references submitted by the February 6, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement. An indication that the references cited by the February 6, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement has been considered is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5 stand objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Various amendments were made to claims 1 and 5 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Various amendments were made throughout claim 2 to bring it into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made to claim 2 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

The Examiner's cooperation is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' Attorney by telephone should any further indefinite matter be discovered so that appropriate amendments may be made.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tezuka (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,911) and Tserng (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,608). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 1-8 are not taught or suggested by Tezuka or Tserng whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims so as to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a computer system and method of managing connection relationships in the computer system by use of a management means.

According to the present invention, the computer system includes a plurality of computers, a plurality of storage means, a plurality of connection means and the management means. The management means manages states of the connections between the computers and the plurality of storage means.

Unique according to the present invention is that the management means includes a correspondence table with indicates relations between a plurality of symbols each indicating one of the computers, the plurality of storage means and the plurality of connection means, and display coordinate values of a display screen, a path table which indicates relations between the symbols and connections among the computers, the plurality of storage means and the plurality of connection means,

connection state display means for displaying on the display screen a state of the connections in the computer system, a zone table which indicates relations between plurality of zones and the symbols indicating the computers, the plurality of storage means and the plurality of connection means, and input means for inputting a user's request for creating new connections among the symbols on the display screen, and changing the connections on the display screen.

As per the present invention, the connection state display means includes means for displaying on the display screen the symbols of the computers, the plurality of storage means, and the state of the connections at positions indicated by the coordinate values in a graphic image and means for creating, by use of the input means, an area displaying the computers and the plurality of storage means on the display screen.

The management means further includes display position comparing means for comparing, based on the coordinate values and the user's request, respectively a graphic image display position of the graphic image of the computers and the plurality of storage means in the connection state display means in a graphic position of an area created by use of the input means and setting means for setting the plurality of storage means and the plurality of connection means according to a result of a comparison by the display position comparing means. According to the present invention when the user's request includes an instruction for creating a connection between symbols of the computers, the plurality of storage means and the plurality of connections not included in the zone table, the user's request is invalidated.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Tezuka or Tserng whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Tezuka is directed to a management system for updating information regarding a network being managed by a physical manager. As taught by Tezuka, a system is provided for building, operating and managing a virtual network which integrates the configuration, the operation and the management of plural information devices connected to a network. As taught by Tezuka, the system includes agents for operating and managing information devices in the respective devices, a physical manager for building, operating and managing the information devices and a logical manager for logically building, operating and managing the information devices.

In the Office Action the Examiner alleges that Tezuka teaches the connection state display means as elements 1211 and 2211 and the detection of the movement of a computer from the network of one department to the network of another department as elements 1212, 1213, etc. However, the Examiner readily admits in the Office Action that Tezuka fails to teach or suggest:

“using comparing means for comparing a graphic image display information of computer D (while still in department 4’s network) with a graphic image display position of computer D (now in department 5’s network) to detect of the movement of computer D”.

In addition to the above noted deficiencies of Tezuka there are numerous other features now more clearly recited in the claims not taught or suggested by Tezuka. For example, as described above, the claims have been amended to recite that the management means includes a correspondence table which indicates

relations between the symbols representing the computers, storage means and connection means and display coordinate values, a path table which indicates relations between the symbols and connections among the computers, storage means and connection means and a zone table which indicates relations between zones and the symbols representing the computers and the storage means. These features now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Tezuka.

In addition, according to the present invention the claims were amended to recite that the input means inputs a user's request for creating new connections among the symbols on the display means and changing the connections on the display screen. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Tezuka.

Further, the claims were amended to recite that the management means performs a comparing operation based on the coordinate values and the user's request and that when the user's request includes an instruction for creating a connection between symbols of the computers storage means and connection means not included in the zone table then the user's request is invalidated. These features clearly are not taught or suggested by Tezuka.

Thus, Tezuka fails to teach or suggest management means having a correspondence table which indicates relations between a plurality of symbols each indicating one of the computers, the plurality of storage means and the plurality of connection means, and display coordinate values, a path table which indicates relations between the symbols and connections among the computers, the plurality of storage means and the connection means and a zone table which indicates

relations between a plurality of zones and the symbols representing the computers and the plurality of storage means as recited in the claims.

Further, Tezuka fails to teach or suggest that the management means includes input means for inputting a user's request for creating a new connection among the symbols on the display screen and changing the connections on the display screen and that the connection state display means includes means for displaying the symbols of the computers, the plurality of storage means and the state of the connections at positions indicated by the coordinate values in the graphic image on the display screen as recited in the claims.

Still further, Tezuka fails to teach or suggest that the management means further includes display position comparing means for comparing, based on the coordinate values and the user's request, respectively a graphic image display position of the graphic image of the computers and the plurality of storage means in the connection state display with a graphic image display position of an area created by user of the input means as recited in the claims.

Still further yet, Tezuka fails to teach or suggest that when the user's request includes an instruction for creating a connection between any symbols of the computers, the plurality of storage means and the plurality of connection means not included in the zone table, then the user's request is invalidated as recited in the claims.

The above noted deficiencies of Tezuka are not supplied by any of the other references of record particularly Tserng. Therefore, combining the teachings of Tezuka and Tserng in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action

still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Tserng is merely relied upon by the Examiner for an alleged teaching of a system which efficiently detects a car movement by comparing the current position of the centroid of the car object with the position of the centroid of the stored car object. This teaching of Tserng does not supply any of the above described deficiencies of Tezuka relative to the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Particularly, the above described features of the Tserng are not concerned with a management means being provided in a computer system having a plurality of computers, a plurality of storage means, a plurality of connection means and the management means which includes a correspondence table, a path table and a zone table as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Further, Tserng does not provide any teachings regarding the input means provided as part of the management means and the connection state display means as recited in the claims.

Still further, there is no teaching or suggestion in Tserng regarding the comparing operation being performed based on the coordinate values and the user's request and that if the user's request instructs the creation of a connection between symbols not included in the zone table then the user's request is invalidated as recited in the claims.

Therefore, based on the above, it is quite clear that both Tezuka and Tserng suffer from the same deficiency and as such the combination of Tezuka and Tserng

fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 1-8 as being unpatentable over Tezuka and Tserng is respectfully requested.

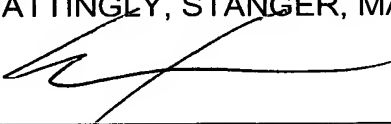
The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-8.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.41163X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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